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PEST MANAGEMENT REPORT

NEWS ABOUT INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN GLASSCOCK, REAGAN AND UPTON COUNTIES

GENERAL SITUATION

Cotton ranges from 2nd week of bloom to cutout. We are getting good, warm temperatures again and I hope they continue. Insect activity of most concern now is aphid and bollworm.

BOLLWORMS

Eggs ranged from 0-10,000 per acre or 0-25 per 100 plants.

Small worms ranged from 0-20,000 per acre or 0-50 per 100 plants.

Medium worms ranged from 0-7,000 per acre or 0-17 per 100 plants.

We have had significant egg-lay and worm-hatch again in several fields. Eggs have been harder to find because of aphid populations in some fields and they were laid lower in the plant.

Small worms can be found in terminals, squares, blooms or on bolls. You need to check the entire plant. We continue to see some worm activity in Bollgard I cotton, and some fields have been treated so you should check those fields also.

If you have cotton that has not been sprayed for worms since the last rains, please scout those fields now.

After checking several larger worms, we continue to see mostly bollworms, however, the later we get into the season, we could see more budworm activity. Check fields after treatment to determine if adequate control was achieved.

APHIDS

Aphid populations are building in many fields, including some that have not been sprayed with other harsh chemicals. Most fields that have economic populations have been sprayed for bollworms or boll weevils. Remember the economic threshold is an average of 50 aphids per leaf. Aphids usually begin by infesting the terminal and on to stems and then move to the leaves. You should walk through fields counting aphids on top, middle and bottom leaves to get an average.

Don't let the aphids linger too long before treatment, but don't pull the trigger too early by looking at honeydew and not aphid numbers.

Control with Intruder[®] and Centric[®] has been good so far except for a field or two that had rain soon after treatment. If you reach economic numbers of aphids and any worms are present, I would include a pyrethroid for worm control.

BEET ARMYWORMS

I continue to hear of beet armyworm problems in some fields in north Glasscock & Howard counties, but most fields I have looked at don't have a problem with beets. We need to keep watching for beet armyworm egg masses and hits.

FALL ARMYWORMS

I have found some fall armyworms in a field of Bollgard I cotton. The numbers were not extremely high, but combined with some bollworms slipping through, they were treated. Control of fall armyworms can be difficult.

PINK BOLLWORMS

BOLL WEEVIL ERADICATION

Pinky traps ranged from 1-24 moths per night this week with the higher numbers found near the intersection of FM 2401 and Hwy 158. You should check for pinky infestations in bolls on non-Bt cotton. If 10-15% of bolls are infested, treatment should be considered.

PLANT GROWTH REGULATORS

I forgot to include information last week about PGR's in the newsletter, but I answered many questions and many of you responded quickly to applying growth regulators after the heavy rains.

Cotton that had heavy boll loads and was near cutout has not grown much. The middle to latter planted cotton, that was still pushing hard, has grown rapidly, if not sprayed. Most of this type cotton needs 16-24 oz. of PGR. New growth will not add to yield potential and will only cause harvest and quality problems.

Below is some information on the Boll Weevil Eradication program through the week of August 19th.

	North Glasscock	Midkiff	Central St Lawrence	Reagan County
	201	202	203	204
Weevil Captures Per Trap This Week	.1509	.0010	.0649	.0273
Weevil Captures Per Trap This Year	.5689	.0055	.1914	.0483
Treatments This Week (ac.)	6175	55	1658	1851
Treatments This Year (ac.)	40,662	2,101	15270	17336

TURNROW MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 30 9:00 am Glasscock Coop
 Wednesday, Aug 31 9:00 am Midkiff Coop

Tuesday, Sept 6 9:00 am Glasscock Coop
 Wednesday, Sept 7 9:00 am Midkiff Coop

Due to an increase in worm and aphid pests, the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation has adjusted triggers for the coming week.

The weevil trigger for the week ending September 3 will be 4 weevils per 40 acres. Any field catching 3 weevils or less will be treated with a mist blower. Those fields catching 4 or more weevils will be treated by plane. Producers using products that have a label for boll weevils should contact the Texas Boll Weevil office in Garden City at 354-2402. These treatments may be used for that week's application if proper documentation is obtained and the treatment has been made in a timely manner. The trigger level will revert to predetermined protocols after September 3.

TRI-COUNTY CROP TOUR

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

We will meet at the St. Lawrence Hall at 2:00 pm for a short St. Lawrence Cotton Growers Meeting. The tour will be from 2:30-5:30 followed by refreshments and a meal. We will tour variety, fertility and Roundup Flex[®] plots.

Remember, the eradication assessment statements were sent out around August 19th. Payment is due by September 25th. If not paid by October 18th, a lien can be placed on your crop. If paid by September 10th, you get a 2% discount.

HEAT UNITS

Heat units averaged 18 per day the past week. Heat units since 5-5, 5-15,5-25,6-5 compared with last year and a five year average in the table below.

DATE	5/5	5/15	5/25	6/5
2005	1943	1823	1665	1516
2004	2116	1978	1792	1573
5 YEAR AVG	2150	2012	1861	1673

**HEAT UNITS NEEDED FOR COTTON
DEVELOPMENT**

Planting To:	
Stand Establishment	78
Squaring	526
First Bloom	1064
First Open Boll	1641
95% Mature Bolls	2271

WEATHER DATA

Weather data for the past two weeks is included in the table that follows:

DATE	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	RAIN	AVG WIND SPEED	SOIL TEMP
8/11	90	65	0	6	81
8/12	88	70	0	8	82
8/13	89	67	1.88	6	82
8/14	85	66	4.37	4	78
8/15	70	65	2.79	2	75
8/16	80	66	.94	1	75
8/17	88	67	0	4	77
8/18	89	66	0	5	78
8/19	87	66	0	5	79
8/20	87	68	0	5	81
8/21	88	66	0	3	82
8/22	91	65	0	3	82
8/23	91	64	0	2	83
8/24	92	65	0	2	83

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